Understanding Sex Offenders: An Introductory Curriculum

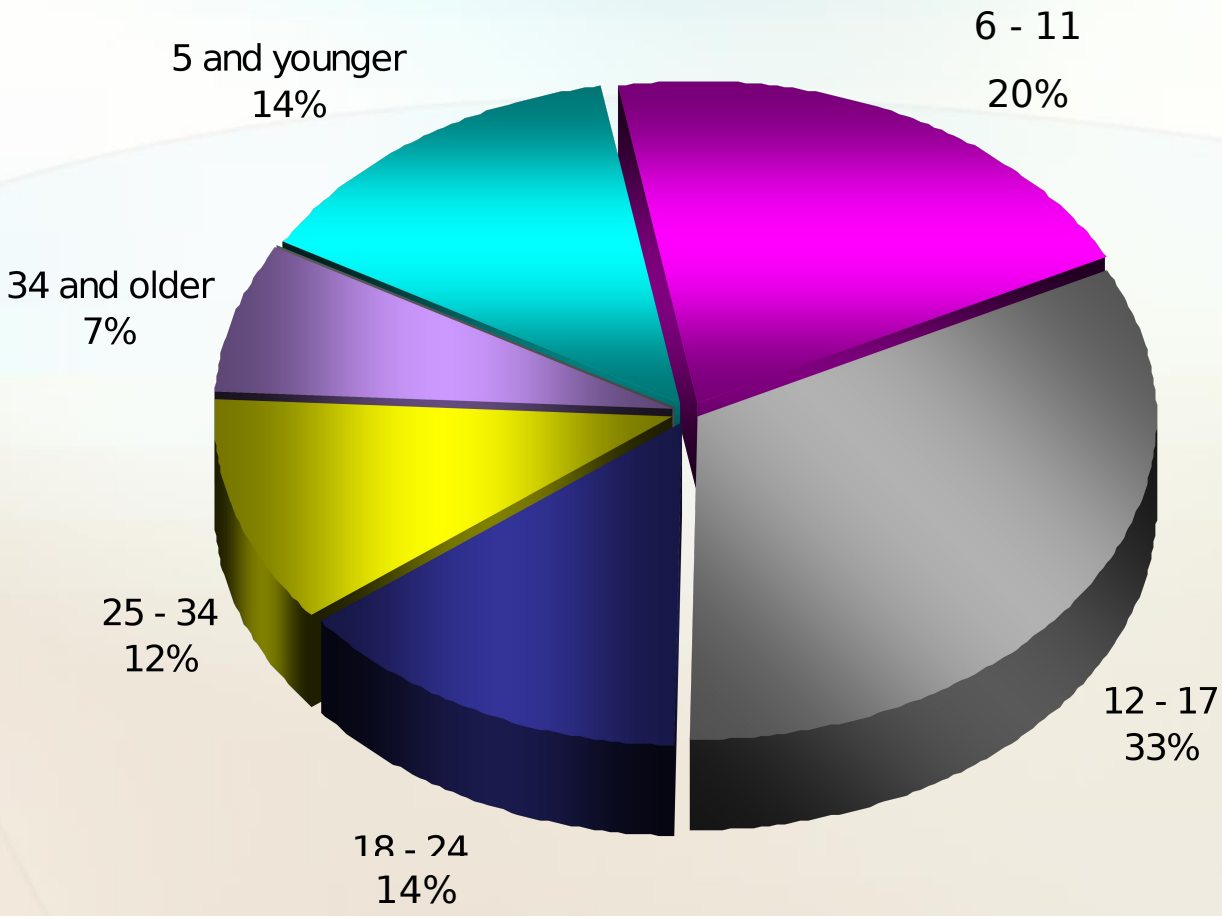
Section 2: The Nature and Scope of Sex Offending

Incidence and Prevalence

- **302,100 women and 92,700 men are forcibly raped in the U.S. each year.**
- **1 in 6 women and 1 in 33 men in the U.S. have experienced rape.**
- **1 in 4 girls and 1 in 7 boys have been sexually assaulted.**

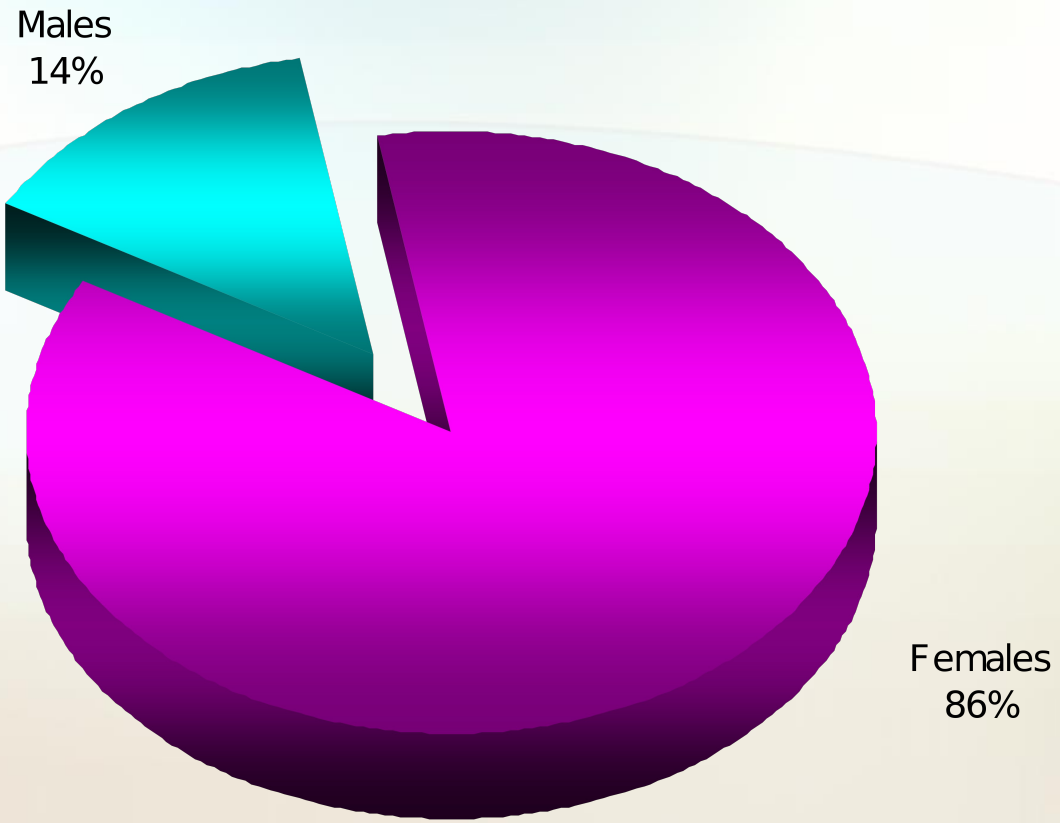
(Finkelhor, 1994; Tjaden & Thoennes, 1998)

Age of Victims



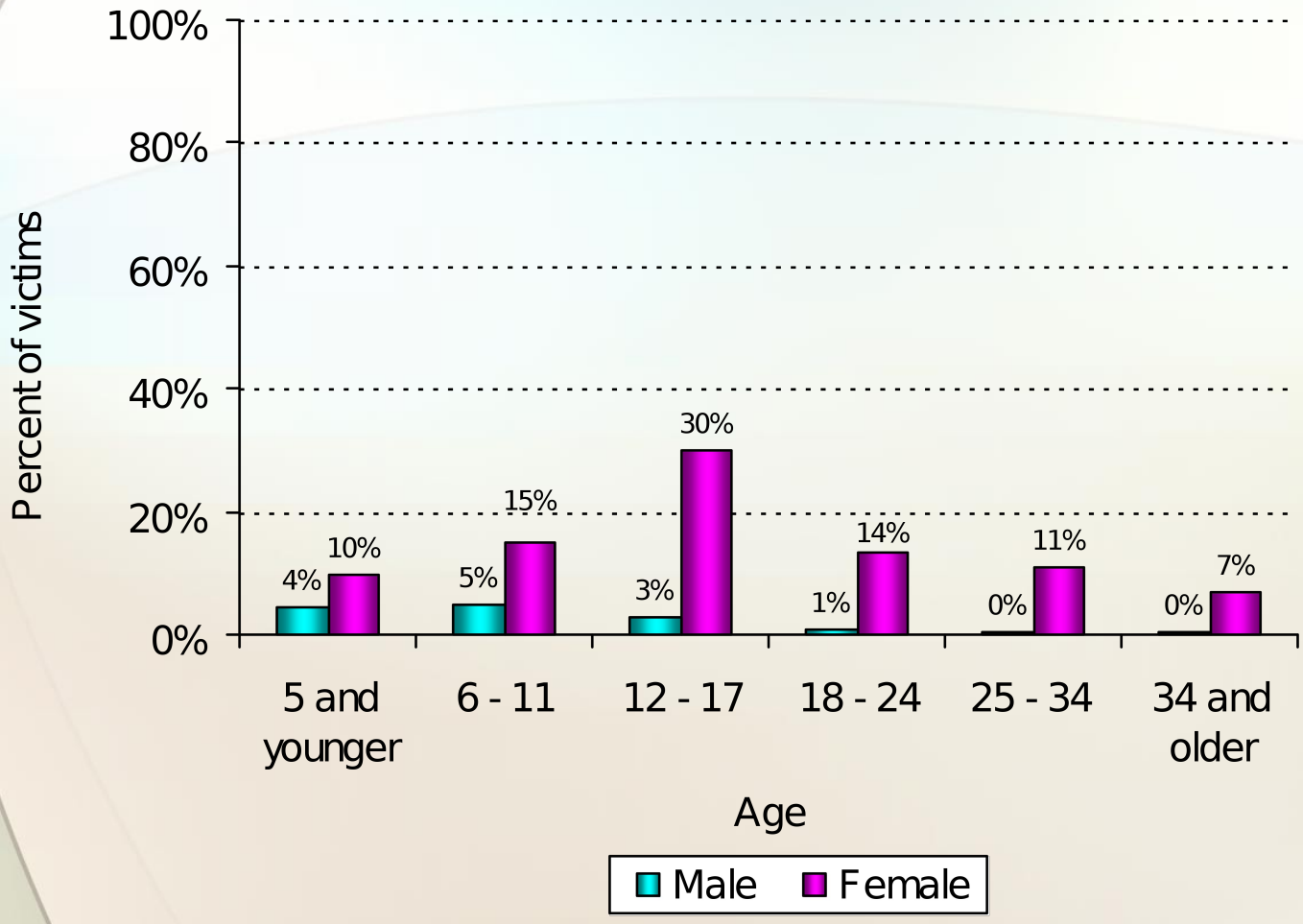
(Snyder, 2000)

Gender of Victims



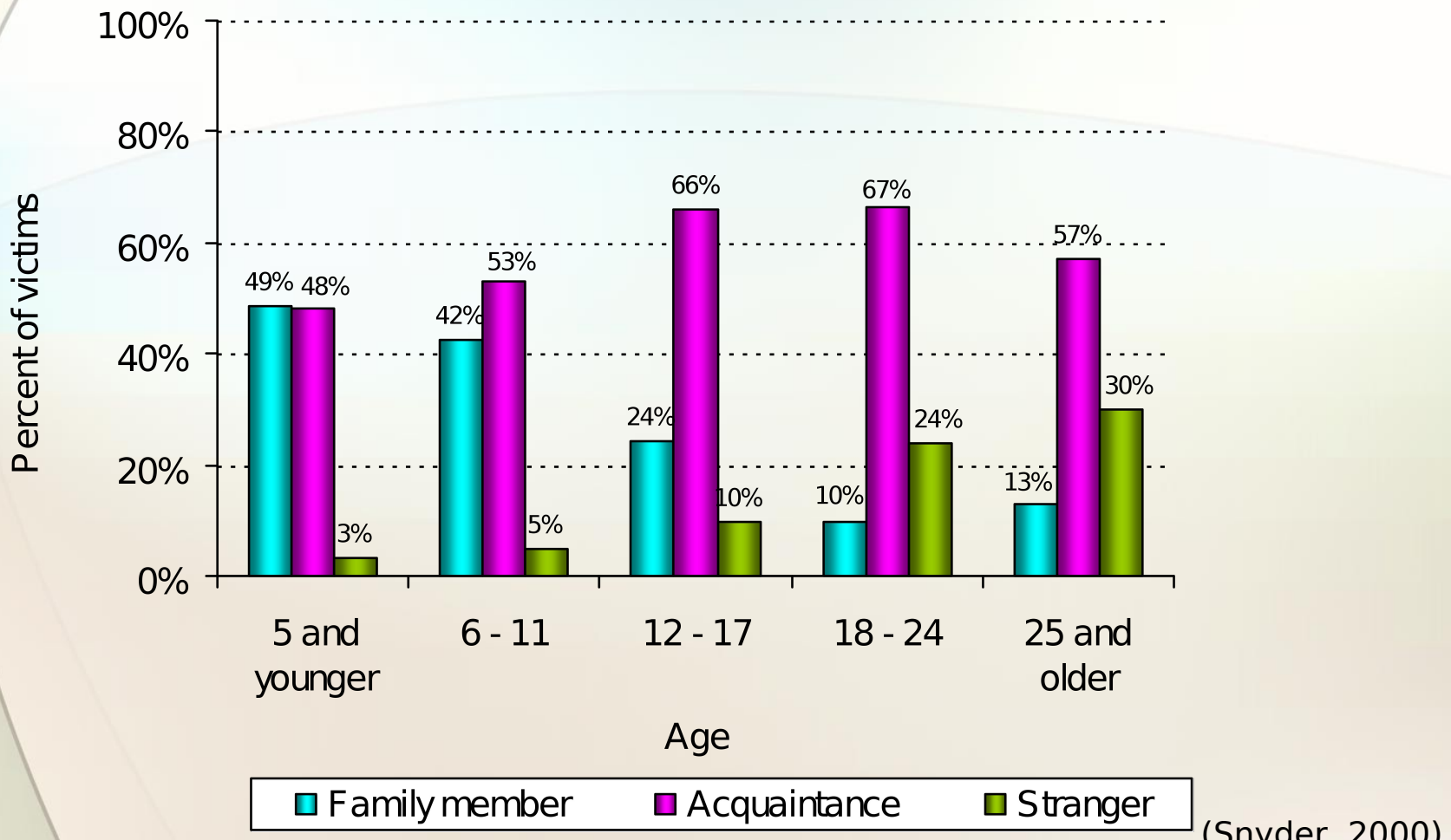
(Snyder, 2000)

Age of Victims by Gender



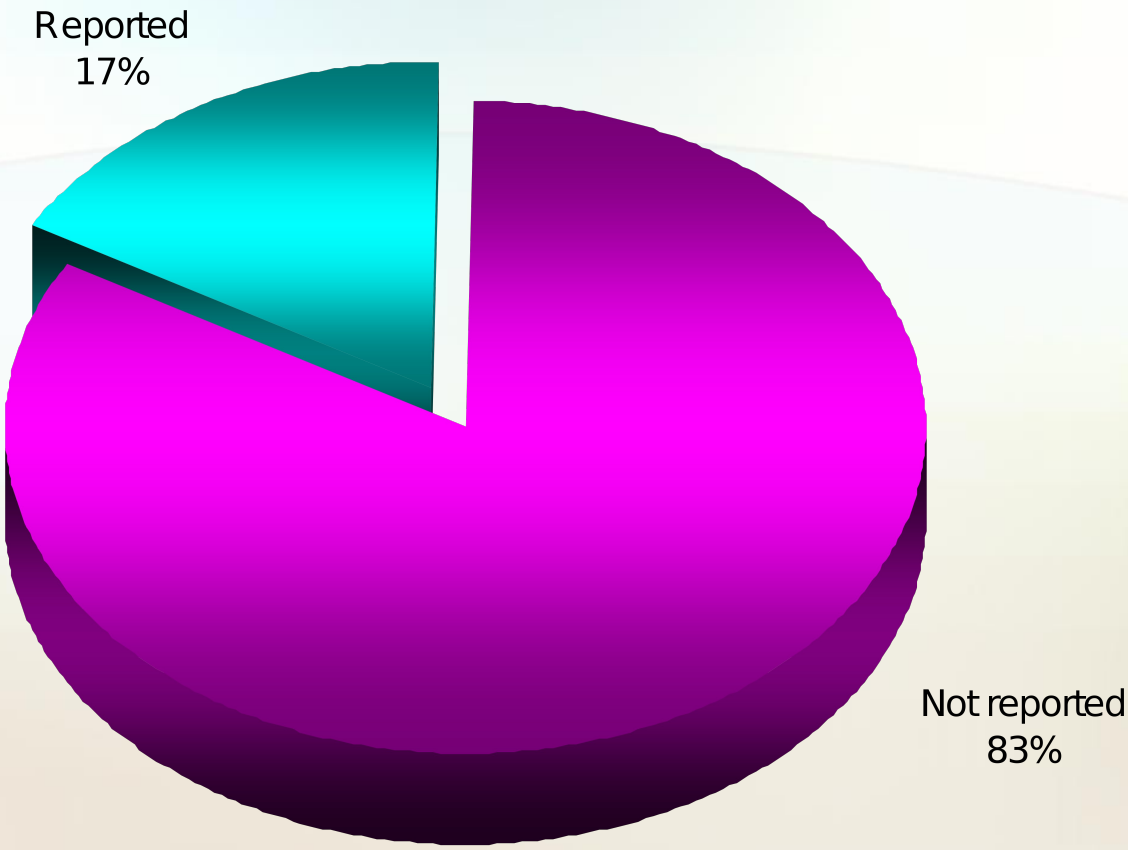
(Snyder, 2000)

Victim/Offender Relationship by Age



(Snyder, 2000)

Reporting Rates



(Tjaden & Thoennes, 1998)

Reasons for Not Reporting

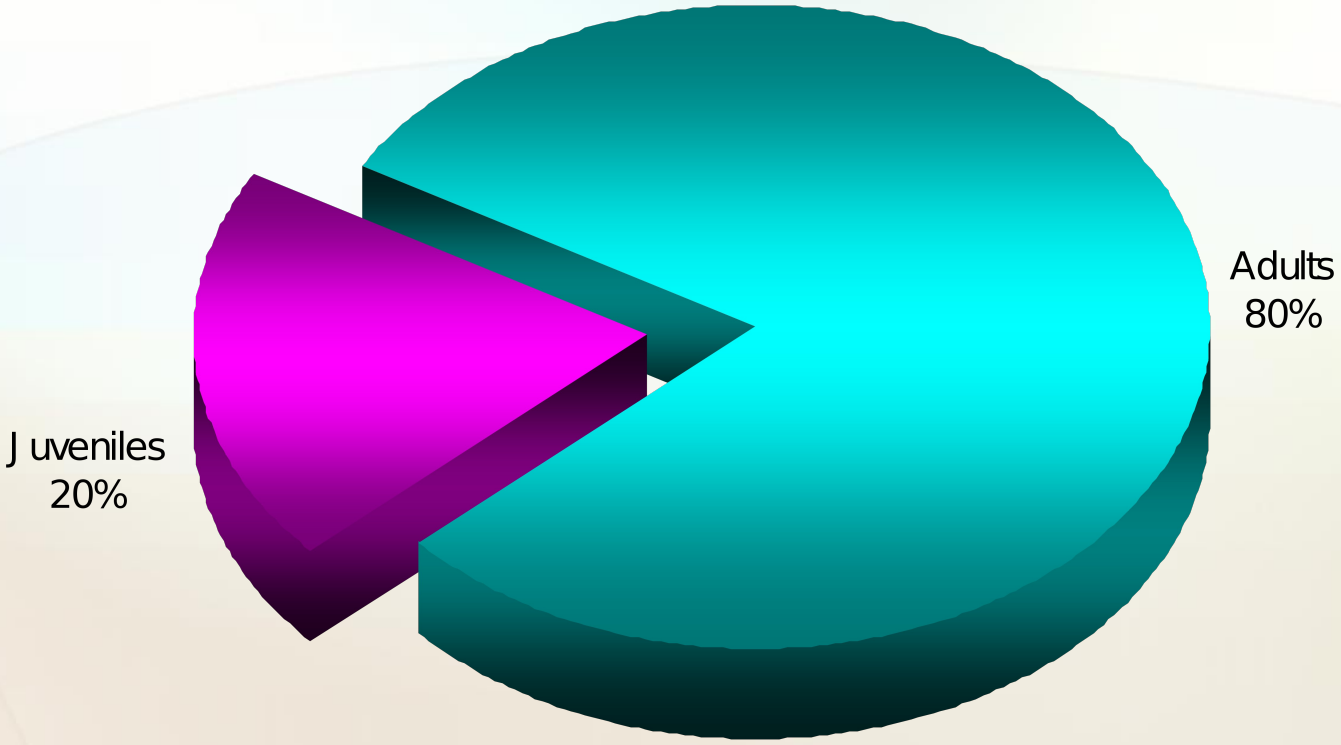
- **Belief that nothing can be done**
- **Fear of or care for the offender**
- **Consider the assault a private matter**
- **Self-blame, or worry that others will blame them**
- **Fear that others will not believe them**
- **Unsure about what happened**

Arrests of Sex Offenders

- **26,066 arrests for forcible rape**
- **90,913 for other sex offenses**

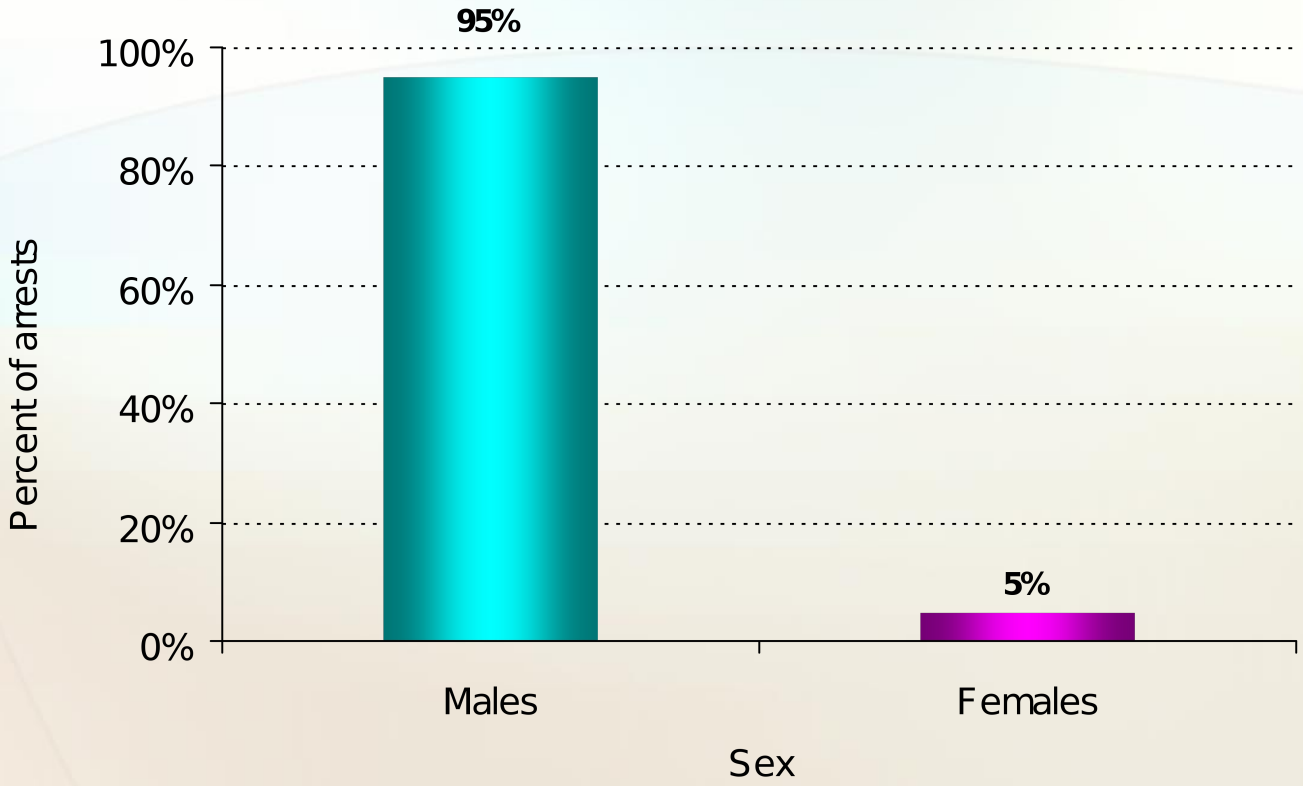
(Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2005)

Arrests by Age



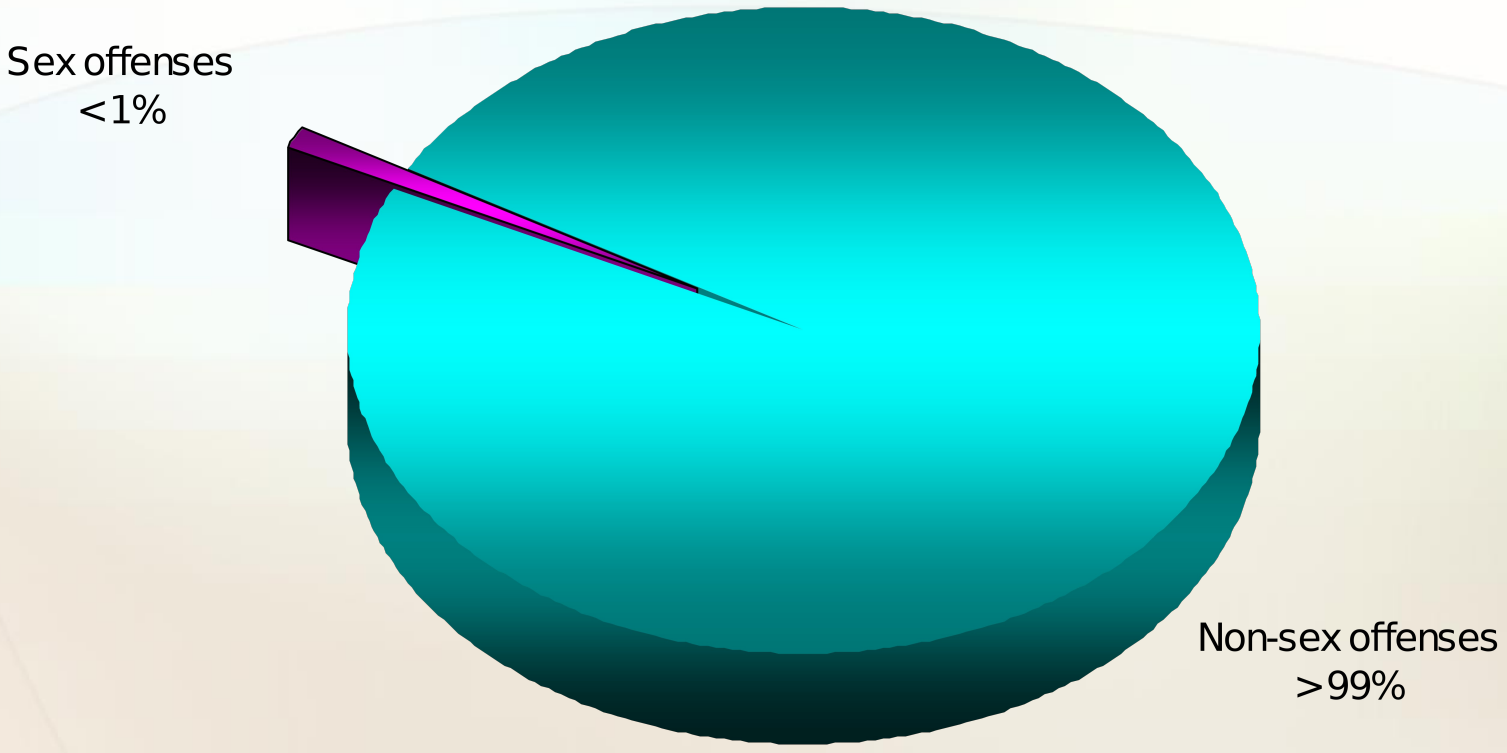
(Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2005)

Arrests by Sex



(Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2005)

Arrests by Offense Type



(Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2005)

Convicted Sex Offenders

- **Comprise 10 to 30% of our prison populations**
- **150,000 incarcerated throughout the country**
- **170,000 are under the authority of correctional agencies**

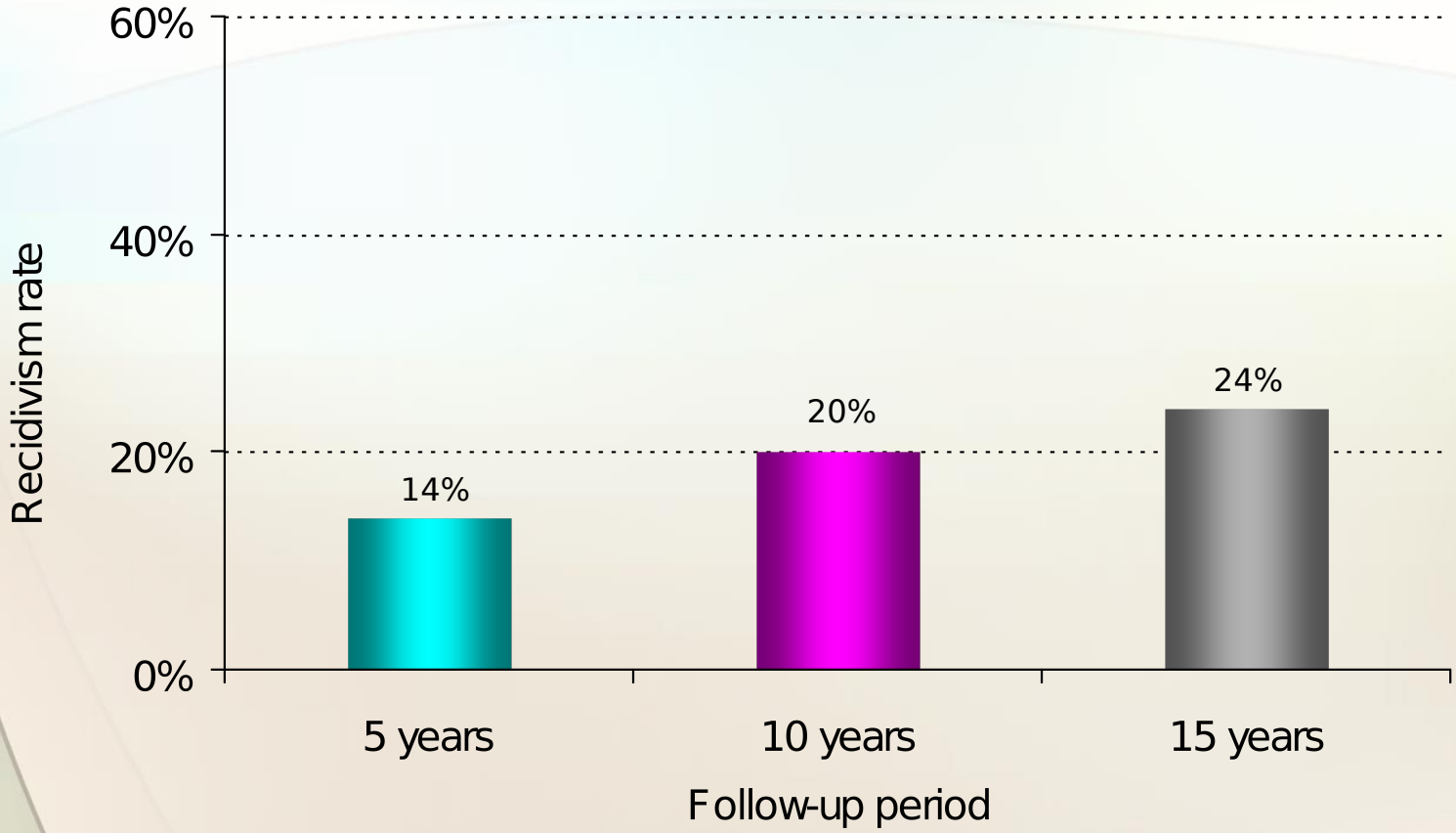
(Bynum, Huebner, & Burgess-Proctor, 2002; Glaze & Palla, 2005; Greenfeld, 1997; Harrison & Beck, 2003, 2006)

Undetected Offenses

- **Sex crimes for which offenders are arrested may not be their first or only crime.**

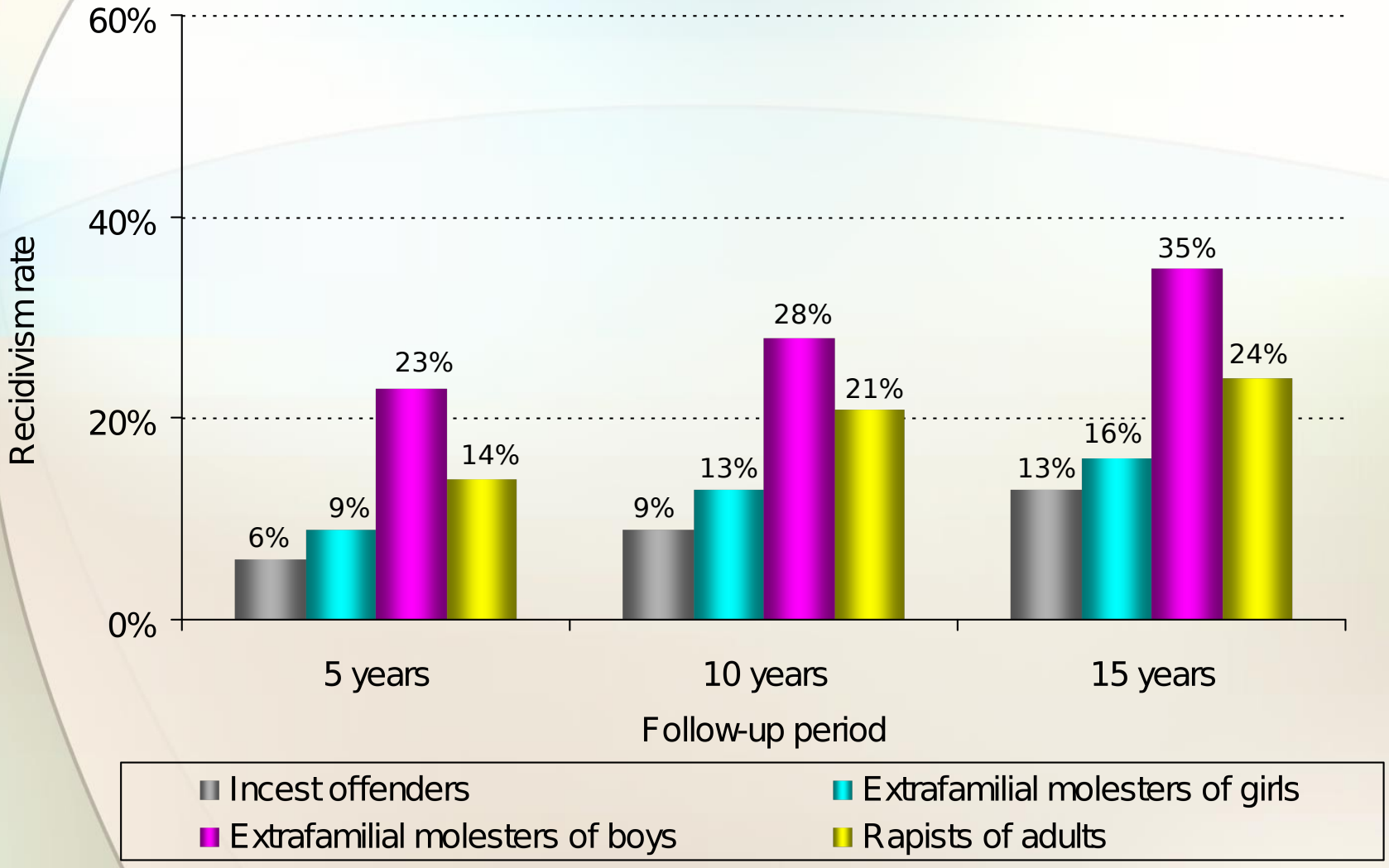
- **Crossover potential exists also:**
  - **Some incest offenders may offend outside the family.**
  - **Some non-incest offenders may offend within the family.**
  - **Some child molesters may rape adults.**
  - **Some rapists may molest children.**

Observed Recidivism Rates Over Time



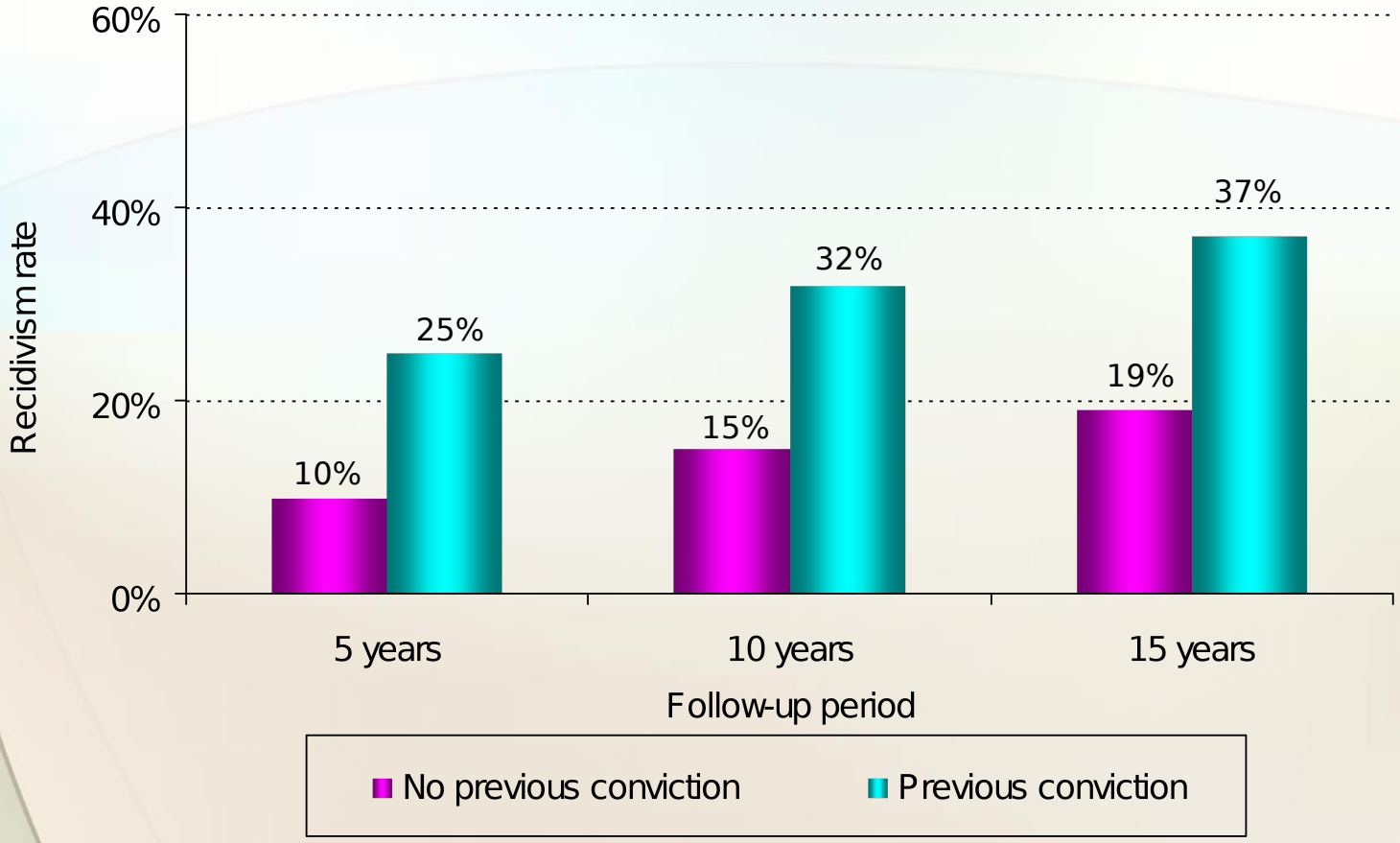
(Harris & Hanson, 2004)

Recidivism Rates by Type of Sex Offender



(Harris & Hanson, 2004)

Recidivism Rates: Previous Conviction vs. No Previous Conviction



(Harris & Hanson, 2004)